

Ngarla language

Ngarla is a Pama–Nyungan language of coastal Western Australia. It is possibly mutually intelligible with Panyjima and Martuthunira, but the three are considered distinct languages.

Ngarla is a member of the Ngayarda branch of the Pama–Nyungan languages. Dench (1995) believed there was insufficient data to enable it to be confidently classified, but Bovern & Koch (2004) include it without proviso.

Ngarla is spoken near Port Hedland. The "Ngarla" on the Ashburton River is a dialect of a different, though possibly related, language, Yinhawangka.

According to the Irra Wangga Language Centre, "Ngarla is no longer spoken today, although there remain some community members who know some words and phrases in the language".^[5]

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Phonology

Consonants

	Ngarla
Native to	Port Hedland area of Western Australia
Ethnicity	Ngarla
Extinct	Critically endangered ^{[1][2]}
Language family	Pama–Nyungan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ngayarda<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ngarla
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	nrk
Glottolog	ngar1296 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/ngar1296) ^[3]
AIATSIS ^[4]	A79 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/australian-aboriginal-languages/language/A79)

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Dorso-velar</u>	<u>Lamino-palatal</u>	<u>Apico-alveolar</u>	<u>Retroflex</u>
<u>Nasal</u>	m	ŋ	ɲ	ɳ	ɳ̠
<u>Stop</u>	p	k	ç	t̪	ʈ
<u>Lateral</u>			ɬ	ɭ	ʎ
<u>Rhotic</u>				r	ɽ
<u>Semivowel</u>	w		j		

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>High</u>	i iː	u uː
<u>Low</u>	a aː	

The long vowels are rare.

Grammar

Tense markers

Ngarla tense markers for verbs:^[6]

<u>Tense marker</u>	<u>Tense</u>
-n	past
-ngkaya	present
-kuRa	future

Language revival

As of 2020, Ngarla is one of 20 languages prioritised as part of the Priority Languages Support Project, being undertaken by First Languages Australia and funded by the Department of Communications and the Arts. The project aims to "identify and document critically-endangered languages — those languages for which little or no documentation exists, where no recordings have previously been made, but where there are living speakers".^[7]

Research has been undertaken on the language at the Irra Wangga Language Centre, who have produced resources in Ngarla, including Ngarla Numbers and *Jamie's Bush Tucker Trip*.^[5]

Notes

1. Austlang: W40: Ngarla (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/w40>)
2. UNESCO Languages Atlas (<http://www.unesco.org/languages-atlas/en/atlasmap/language-id-682.html>)

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ngarla" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ngar1296>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. A79 (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/A79>) Ngarla at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)
5. "Midwest Languages: Ngarla" (http://www.bundiyarra.com.au/index.php?page=mid_west_languages#section5). *Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation*. Retrieved 14 January 2020.
6. O'Grady, Voegelin & Voegelin 1966, p. 82
7. "Priority Languages Support Project" (<https://www.firstlanguages.org.au/projects/plsp>). *First Languages Australia*. Retrieved 13 January 2020.

References

- O'Grady, Geoffrey N.; Voegelin, C. F.; Voegelin, F. M. (1966). "Languages of the World: Indo-Pacific Fascicle Six". *Anthropological Linguistics*. **8** (2): 1–197. JSTOR 30029431 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/30029431>).
- Westerlund, Torbjörn (2007). *A grammatical sketch of Ngarla: A language of Western Australia* (http://www2.lingfil.uu.se/ling/semfiler/westerlund_d_vt07.pdf) (PDF) (masters thesis).
- Westerlund, Torbjörn (2015). *A Grammatical Sketch of Ngarla (Ngayarta, Pama-Nyungan)* (<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/14712/3/Westerlund%20A%20grammatical%20sketch%202015.pdf>) (PDF). Asia-Pacific Linguistics; A-PL 16. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics. hdl:1885/14712 (<https://hdl.handle.net/1885%2F14712>). ISBN 978-1-922185-15-0.

External links

- Wangka Maya (http://acl.arts.usyd.edu.au/projects/wangkamaya/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

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